



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cumberland Island National Seashore
P.O. Box 806
St. Marys, GA 31558



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



The Mullet Wrapper

The official newsletter of
Cumberland Island National Seashore

June through August 2007

From the Acting Superintendent

Plum Orchard Mansion, 2007 (NPS Photo)

As the Fiscal Year drew to a close on September 30, 2007, our budget was balanced and we were ready to begin with a fresh slate on October 1. During the final weeks of September, a *Status of Funds* report was forwarded to the Southeast Regional Budget Office each morning at 11:00am. Thanks to our Budget Technician Gary Head, we met our deadline each day!

Upcoming on the park's agenda will be the official re-opening of Plum Orchard Mansion. The current target date for visitors to once again be invited to tour Plum Orchard is November 11, 2007. Thereafter, the tours will resume on the second and fourth Sunday each month. The mansion has taken on a pleasant new look thanks to the recent rehabilitation project, including newly finished floors, wall paper renovation, fixture renovation, and new paint.

The Transportation Management Plan should be finalized and out for public comment after the first of the year. Comments are welcome and the park guarantees that all submissions will be reviewed.

On September 29, Cumberland Island National Seashore participated in the National Public Lands Free Fee Day. This is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. Cumberland volunteers conducted a thorough beach clean up during the weekend.

Each year a report is prepared by the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit based on the Visitor Survey that they performed at our park. Visitors are given a Visitor Survey Card in order to summarize their visit and target their

satisfaction with our facilities, services, and recreational opportunities. This survey was developed to measure the park unit's performance in compliance with the National Park Service's Government Performance and Results Act. Our overall survey rating was 92% for last year. This is a positive reflection on the quality of staff in all of Cumberland's divisions. Keep up the good work!

As always, kudos to Administrative Support Assistant Justin Helton for the professional job he does on each issue of our park's *Mullet Wrapper*.

This has been an incredibly productive year and Cumberland Island's employees should be proud to have accomplished so much with a small but very capable staff. My sincere thanks to all of you for your continued support of this park and its mission.



Julie Meeks
-Julie Meeks
Acting Superintendent

NPS Mission: To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations" 1916 Organic Act

Youth Conservation Corps



From left to right: Katy Holcomb, Rene Manning, Ariel Crossman, Jason Rucker, Hugh Clark and Dillon Lewis.

Cumberland Island hosted 6 Youth Conservation Corps students this summer. Hugh Clark, Dillon Lewis, Rene Manning, Katy Holcomb, Ariel Crossman, and Jason Rucker led by Mark Feine, our work leader, accomplished many projects for the park. Projects ranged from simple maintenance of buildings and vehicles to clearing trails and painting.

One of the big projects for this summer was painting the Stafford Beach house. Working through paint color variations, thunderstorms and the heat, their painting skills increased as the summer wore on. Another major project was clearing the historic footprint of The Cottage. The group worked hard to clear vegetation in the garden and house area. They teamed up with the SCA's to clear stands of bamboo- a task many hope to never experience again. Visitors also benefited from their labors as they cleaned buildings and campgrounds and helped repair the boardwalks. The new beach chair and Sea Camp carts were assembled quickly with the help of many hands.



This year's YCC corps participated in St. Marys 2007 Fourth of July Parade.

Part of the YCC experience is to gain an appreciation for the National Seashore and understand our mission. Visits to Dungeness and Plum Orchard as well as hikes along Willow Pond trail and to the beach presented an overall view of life on a barrier island. A lesson in resource management came along in the form of manatee observations and red bay tree injections with the US Forest Service personnel. Even tasks such as cleaning and painting were connected to the Park's mission.

While not all memories are pleasant ones (heat, blisters and ticks), the YCC's always had a smile and a story to share about their experiences on the island. A special thanks goes to them for their enthusiasm and hard work!

-Pauline Wentworth
Visitor Use Assistant



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Eagle Scout Project



Scout Master Tom Thorton, Eagle Scout Sage Morbeck, Xavier Carter, Scout Master Bill Lister, Max Allen, and Chris Lewis.

We would like to invite you to take a *Walk with the Natives* along the river trail. This summer Eagle Scout Sage Morbeck and BSA 757 from Marietta Georgia enhanced this walk even more by recreating a "native homesite", complete with hut, food drying rack, pottery pit, and tanned hide. Last year, we created a brochure which highlights the plants that the Native Tacatacuru people used for food, medicine, clothing, shelter, and transportation. Sage, then a Boy Scout volunteer, installed the markers along the trail and was so inspired that he decided to do his Eagle Scout Project related to the Native People.

Sage earned his Eagle Scout badge after arranging and approving the project with park staff and Scout leaders and providing the leadership for the troop to assist him in its construction. This exhibit reflects life as it may have been like for the native islanders who depended on the natural world for survival and sustenance. Congratulations and Commendations to Sage Morbeck and BSA Troop 757 for an outstanding job on the Eagle Scout Project!

-Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox
Interpretive Ranger

Hints from Helton

Phishing Scam

There have been reports of unsolicited emails circulating throughout the Interior that appear to come from Bank of America. The email uses Bank of America's logo and appears legitimate. The message reads:

"Due to the number of incorrect login attempts, your Bank of America Online Banking Account has been locked for your security on XX/XX/XXXX. You must reset your Passcode before you can enter Online Banking. You can reset your Passcode just with one click on the link below. As Bank of America we care about your security so, for your protection we are proactively notifying you of this activity."

The email is not legitimate but is what is known as a "phishing" scam, and has nothing to do with Bank of America. Phishing attacks use fake email messages from an agency or individual pretending to represent your bank or financial institution. The email asks you to provide sensitive information (name, password, account number, and so forth) and provides links to a counterfeit web site. If you follow the link and provide the requested information, intruders can potentially access your personal account information and finances. If you receive this email, please report it as spam by forwarding it to abuse@bankofamerica.com, as well as SPAMbox@nps.gov, and then delete it from your mailbox.

I.P. Telephony

If you haven't heard by now, let me be the first to inform you that the park is installing a new Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system. VoIP is an IP telephony term for a set of facilities used to manage the delivery of voice information over the Internet. VoIP involves sending voice information in digital form in discrete packets rather than by using the traditional circuit-committed protocols of the public switched telephone network (PSTN). Taking advantage of this technology will enable us to have phone service on the island. As it stands right now, there will be one phone module per government building on the island (Sea Camp Nightingale Well, Captain's House, Resource Office and Carriage House). We are being provided an instructor manual for each handset that is being installed. So, when the installation is complete, make sure that you have received your manual.

-Justin Helton
Administrative Assistant

Upcoming TELNPS Courses:

October 10th
12:30 - 4:30pm ET
Course Code: NPS-LAW2000
Last Day to Register: Oct. 8th
"Legal Update"
Four hours of Legal Update presented by NPS and FLETC staff.

October 11th
1:00 - 3:00pm ET
Course Code: NPS-ADM1501
Last Day to Register: Oct. 9th
"The Project Scoping Tool: An Interface between FMSS and PMIS"

Presentation will roll out the Project Tool (PST). This web-based application automates the process of developing a facility project from work orders in FMSS and generates a draft project in PMIS. The program will address the business practices in FMSS and PMIS that are streamlined by the use of the PST. A step by step guidebook will be included in the program.

October 25th
1:00-2:30pm ET
Course Code: DOI-Ethics
Last Day to Register: Oct. 24th
"DOI Ethics - Post Employment"

To give viewers a general overview of the Federal ethics regulations, as well as provide specific guidance on Fund-raising in the workplace, Post-Employment restrictions and teaching, speaking and writing related to your official duties.

November 5th
1:00-3:00pm ET
Course Code: NPS-UNC6300
"Retirement Planning for New Employees"
Course is designed to enable employees who are just beginning their careers to plan prudently.

November 7th
12:30-3:30pm ET
Course Code: NPS-LAW2010
"LE Refresher"

Three hours of varied topics include: Use of Force, Vehicle Stops, Vehicle Liability, and Pursuit Policy, Diplomatic Immunity, Pre Assault Indicators, Resource Law, Flying Armed, Report Writing, etc.



Quote Corner

"To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity."

-Douglas Adams

Our Summer of 2007 Youth Conservation Corp [YCC] program was a success in every sense of the word, as you will see in other sections of the *Mullet Wrapper*. It proved most beneficial to have Mark Feine, the YCC Team Leader be involved with the selection process this year. Also, during the program, he was assisted by Visitor Use Assistant Pauline Wentworth. This was Mark's fourth year working with our YCC Students at Cumberland Island National Seashore and he and Pauline made a great team!

It has been a combined effort from all the divisions to get the contracts executed and the projects completed on time this fiscal year. With the absence of a Contracting Officer, it has really been touch and go! As I write this article, we are under fire and working feverishly to get the funding obligated and to meet all deadlines. Great big thanks to Contracting Officer Diane Foote from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Diane has been working with us on our contracts and has helped us with all of our contracting problems and has really been a great asset to our park. She always kept her cool and she was so helpful in walking me through the trials and tribulations of IDEAS! Hooray for you, Diane!

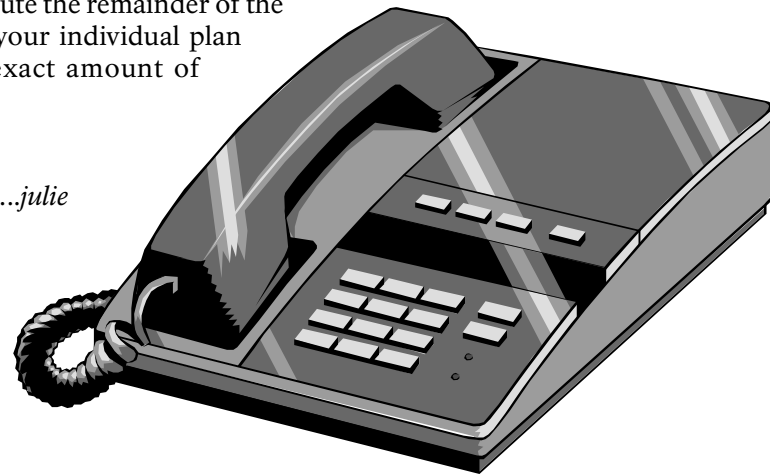
The ArrowHead Store has added a great new tote bag to their catalog items. They are the official website for NPS Arrowhead products and employees, volunteers, alumni or partners are welcome to order from them. Their web address for ordering is: <https://www.ArrowHeadStore.com>. However, if you wish to order by phone, their toll free number is: 877-628-7275.

The General Services Administration [GSA] announced that the Fiscal Year 2008 standard US per diem allowance will increase from \$99 to \$109. The \$10 hike is due to an increase in the standard Continental United States [CONUS] lodging rates changing from \$60 to \$70. However, the \$30 meal and incidental expense portion of the per diem was not re-evaluated this year and so will remain the same. This is the first change since the \$60 rate was established in 2005. The per diem rate reimburses employees for expenses incurred while on authorized official travel within the United States.

As of May 14, 2007, the regulations changed regarding the time limits given to use earned Comp Time. Exempt employees are allowed 26 pay periods to use their Comp Time before it is lost while prior to May 14, 2007, the comp time was lost after 13 pay periods. The new regulation states that Non-Exempt employees now have 26 pay periods to use their comp time before it converts to overtime. Please be diligent in checking your Leave and Earning Statements and make certain any comp time you earn is used before the 26 pay period deadline! If you have a question regarding whether you are classified as Exempt or Non-Exempt, you will find that information on every SF-50 as well as on your Leave and Earning Statements.

Federal health premiums are going to rise slightly in 2008. They are expected to increase by an average of 2.1%, with the government expected to pay 1.7% while the employee will be required to contribute the remainder of the increase. Of course, your individual plan will determine the exact amount of increase.

Until next time....julie



VOLUNTEER!

Lunch and Learn

Park volunteers and interpretive staff participated in a "Lunch and Learn" session on Jekyll Island in partnership with Jekyll Island Museum, Sea Turtle Center and Tidelands Nature Center. Museum programs included: *Buildings and Blueprints*, a closer look at the architecture of the Victorian and Edwardian periods, and *In the Service of Others*, examined the lives of the hundreds of working class men, women and children who supported the luxurious lives of the gilded age. Tidelands Center provided an opportunity to learn more about barrier island creatures. Tours of the



Back Row from left to right: Mac Flowers, Ron Crawford, Pauline Wentworth, Diane Torgerson, Paulette Serbin, Allan Ryssylainen and Rick Gibbs. Front Row: Ed Torgerson, Debbie Britt, Jeanne Legner and Suzanne Bertolini.

Jekyll Island Sea Turtle center and rehab facility highlighted the life and trials of Loggerhead sea turtles, and Diamondback Terrapins nesting off Georgia's coast. In

fact, some of the ill and injured sea turtles from Cumberland will be sent to the center. This was a great opportunity for park staff and volunteers to work and learn together in an effort to support the park mission.

-Ginger Hollingsworth-Cox
Volunteer Coordinator



Participating volunteers and park staff enjoy a tram ride to their destination.



Participating volunteers and park staff tour "Mistletoe", an historic structure while on Jekyll Island.

Beach Clean-up



Participating volunteers congratulate each other on a job well done.

Park Staff, SCA Crew and Volunteers worked quickly to clean up debris from a capsized boat, which scattered nails, board, and huge massive amounts of Styrofoam along the beach. In fact, a total of three dumpsters were filled in three days.

CUIS Ornament Part Of White House Christmas

Local artist and volunteer Dan Butterworth's artwork was selected to represent Cumberland Island National Seashore on the White House Christmas tree this coming December. Dan painted a vibrant, multicolored turtle with acrylic paint



Dan Butterworth and his painted bulb.

on a large gold bulb. A big thanks to Dan for doing such a wonderful job and we look forward to being represented by such a beautiful piece of art. Dan has been married to his wife for 32 years and has 3 children. Dan has been a teacher for over 10 years and currently teaches at St. Marys Middle School.

-Justin Helton
Administrative Assistant

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Turtle Update

Turtle season is still in full swing on Cumberland. Although the females have finished nesting for the summer, the early nests are beginning to hatch and the turtle techs are busy monitoring their progress. Earlier predictions for a slow year along the Georgia coast were correct. Total nests for the Georgia islands this year amounted to 688, down compared to 1,000-plus the two previous years. Cumberland, once again, had the highest nest numbers with 177 nests. The closest “competitor” was Ossabaw Island with slightly over 100 nests. At the time this article was written 160 of Cumberland’s nests had hatched,



producing an estimated 15,000 hatchlings. The turtle techs will continue monitoring efforts through October until all nests have hatched.

In other turtle related news, stranding numbers are down this year. So far, we have accounted for 43 turtles on Cumberland. Statewide, there have been 83 stranded turtles reported in 2007. Also, the shores of Cumberland had a welcomed visitor during the week of August 20th when the turtle techs discovered a Green sea turtle crawl and potential nest site. Green sea turtles are infrequent visitors to the Georgia coast and the Cumberland turtle project normally documents one crawl every two to three years. Jekyll Island reported a Green sea turtle nest in late July of this year.

Invasive Plant Management

As summer winds down and the annual growing season comes to an end, the Resource Management Division will reduce invasive plant control activities and prepare for the upcoming spring. This year was a good one for Cumberland’s invasive plant project, including the hiring of a 12-week SCA intern and a visit from the Park Service’s Exotic Plant Management Team for the southeast region. Notable achievements include a significant reduction of tung oil trees on 6 sites; reduction of Chinese tallow trees on 1 site; removal of numerous salt cedar (tamarisk) trees scattered throughout

the island; removal of a small stand of privet adjacent to Plum Orchard; and re-treatment of numerous stands of bamboo. The sites with tung oil and Chinese tallow will require annual monitoring and control as these two tree species are difficult to eradicate.



We are on the lookout for Beach Vitex, an ornamental plant that has demonstrated the ability to take over large expanses of dunes in South Carolina. The plant currently appears to be associated with developed islands where it has been used for erosion control and as an ornamental around motels and other buildings. While it is not known to be present on the island, there is always the chance that it could wash in from another site or be brought in as a landscape plant. Issues associated with this plant in South Carolina include competition and crowding-out of native dune plants (including sea oats) and loss of sea turtle nesting habitat.

Turtle Tech’s Arrival



Kelly Kirby, SCA Turtle Tech

Our final turtle tech of the season arrived on August 6th. Kelly Kirby, a resident of Gray, Georgia, will be helping finish the park’s turtle season this year. Kelly has a college degree in biology and is very interested in a career working with wildlife along the Georgia coast. She is no stranger to the sea turtle world, having worked with the turtle program at Canaveral National Seashore in

2005. Please welcome Kelly to the park when you see her.

-Doug Hoffman
Wildlife Biologist

Maintenance Division

It’s been a long hot and dry summer and a busy one in the Maintenance Division but projects continue to get completed and added at an overwhelming rate. Somehow the folks in the field accomplish the tasks and challenges on a day to day basis.

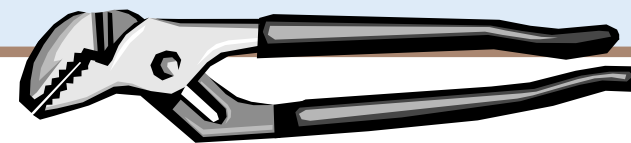


The Alberty House

The Alberty house is still an ongoing project with the latest development having to do with the artesian well being drilled. It will supply the Alberty house with water and serve as a water supply for fire trucks in the case of any structural fires in the vicinity. The Alberty project will include a roof replacement in-kind five v metal, lead abatement on the interior, new electric and restrooms.



This picture identifies the proximity of the artesian wells to the First African Baptist Church.



Annual Haul-outs

The Park’s fleet all had their annual haul-outs recently including the Mocama and General Greene. I would like to report that all the small boats (23’ and under) have not shown more-than-normal wear and tear, which shows that operators are either really lucky or they are paying attention to proper boating procedures. I hope it is the latter.



The General Greene



The Mocama

Other Projects

Other projects completed recently are the restroom floors at the Laundry House Visitor facility, new floors at the Staff quarters downstairs “ Educational Center”, New energy efficient window installation at the White Cottage, North Cabin interior restoration. Projects coming up are the Dungeness Mansion stabilization, Stafford Campground fire ring installation, Seacamp Visitor center restroom flooring restoration, Hunt Camp cooler and restroom installation, Museum [St. Marys] roof replacement and interior restoration. The Plum Orchard project is on the final approach to this phase and should be completed in late September early October.

-David Casey
Facility Manager

